

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PUNJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 31st August, 1872.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Urdu Akhbār*, of the 16th August, has a communicated article on the sale of adulterated articles in towns, and the mischievous consequences produced by it. The writer speaks particularly of the city of Delhi, of which he is a native, and gives a detail of the deleterious substances mixed,—(1) in provisions, such as wheat-flour, ghee, &c., (2) in drugs and medicinal preparations, (3) in sweetmeats, cream, and other eatables sold by confectioners, and (4) in smoking-tobacco. The authorities are asked to direct their attention to the abuse, and take effective steps for putting a stop to it.

The *Nūr-ul-Anwār*, of the 17th August, invites attention to a serious case of murder which recently happened in Kakoree (Lucknow), and which, through the dishonesty of the police, is said to have been treated as one of accidental death, and to have ended in the acquittal of the offender. The particulars, as stated by a correspondent, are these:—

A Hindoo gram-parcher, named Sudra, who carries on an intrigue with a potter's wife, had killed his first wife, who was then pregnant, in the time of the Native rule in Oudh, when of course he was not called to account for the offence. The second wife was no more fortunate. She had all along

been treated with great barbarity ; till one night, Sudra, on returning home from his paramour's house at midnight, and happening to find the mangoes he had left behind him less by one, made this a pretext for beating her cruelly till she died. He threw the corpse into a well, and, in the morning, set up loud cries, giving out that his wife had fallen into the well, and by procuring false witnesses to verify the statement, and bribing the *havaladar*, who came to make enquiries on the spot, had the deceased proved to be mad, and the case set down as one of accidental death. Unfortunately for the murderer, however, the chowkeedar of the mohulla, who was also promised a share in the bribes, having received nothing, induced the guardians of the deceased to lodge a complaint for satisfaction of the murder, at which another *havaladar* has been deputed to make enquiries into the case, and fresh witnesses have been produced. The offender is sure of again obtaining his acquittal by bribing the new *havaladar* also.

A Bulrampore correspondent, of the same paper, states that in pursuance of the Chief Commissioner's Circular, the zemindars of Baraitch have been required by the district authorities to agree to a new condition in the engagement entered into with Government in the new settlement, according to which Government will be at liberty, within the term of the engagement, to make additions to the *jumma* from time to time.

The correspondent objects to this, and remarks that such a proceeding has given the zemindars, with whom a permanent settlement has been made, much cause for complaint, and certainly with good reason, seeing that if, notwithstanding the fact of the Government revenue on their estates having been fixed once for all in the permanent settlement, and all profits and losses connected with the estates resting entirely with them, Government is to enjoy a right of increasing the revenue, it no longer remains a permanent settlement, and the agreement entered into by Government is at once nullified.

He wonders the English Government, which always abides by its promises and engagements, should violate them in this case.

The *Punjabi Akhbār*, of the same date, notices the distress brought on the city of Jugraon (Loodhiana) by the recent heavy rain. The particulars, as stated by a correspondent of that paper, are as follows:—

For several days cholera committed great ravages in the city, and, to add to this calamity, heavy rains fell for more than a month in succession, which did serious injury. On the 30th July, and 8th and 10th of August, it rained so heavily that 472 houses fell down, and numerous persons were buried under the ruins, of whom 20 died. The loss amounts to several lakhs of rupees, and hundreds of the inhabitants have been rendered houseless and reduced to such poverty as to be unable even to bear the cost of removing the materials of the ruined houses. To crown this distress, the crops have been destroyed. Altogether the city has been reduced to such a state that it will be some time before it recovers.

The editor calls upon Government to take steps for relieving the people, and invites the sympathy of the rich men of the city to help their fellow-citizens on this occasion, not forgetting at the same time to give due praise to one of them—viz., Syud Shareef Husun—for having rendered timely aid to the sufferers by throwing open his houses for their reception in the midst of the calamity.

The *Koh-i-Nūr*, of the same date, publishes another anonymous letter on the abuses connected with the registration of title-deeds, noticed in general terms in that paper of the 3rd August (*vide* pp. 439-40 of the *Selections* for the week ending 17th August). The writer enters into a detail of these abuses, as follows:—

The writer of the deeds takes four times the usual fee, after which a fee must be given to the *Ahlmud* and the copyist, otherwise the deeds are sure to be detained for several

days. The demands of the mohurrirs have then to be satisfied. These collect their fees through the writers of the deeds, the copyists, &c., their subordinates, allowing a fourth part of what they receive to the latter for the service. In case of any one refusing to meet their demands, he cannot get access to the Registrar; or if he does, he is told by the officer that he must wait till the deed is ready. The fees exacted by the mohurrirs are of several kinds—*viz.*, (1) Government-fee, (2) booking-fee, (3) mohurrir's due, (4) the copyist's due, (5) receipt-fee, and (6) orderlies' fee.

Worse still, with the exception of particular persons, who are the relatives or *protégés* of the mohurrirs, no other man is allowed by the Sub-Registrars to undertake the duty, the reason being that some of these officials divide half of the fees realized by the writers of the deeds.

The writer points out the need of removing these abuses by transferring the whole staff of officials to other places, and extending the privilege of writing title-deeds to all.

The same paper has the following in its correspondence columns:—

Peshawur.—Since the 26th July there has been a continuous fall of rain. On the 2nd August it rained so tremendously that the Indus was inundated, in consequence of which about 200 houses fell down, and a great portion of the crops was destroyed. The Qissa Khwanee Bazaar was so overwhelmed with water that a large number of elephants were employed in order to erect a bund; while the cantonment became one sheet of water. Much damage was done to property, and a few lives were lost. The exertions of the district authorities on the occasion were commendable.

The want of pleaders is greatly felt. Before Pundit Radha Kishen there was no other pleader in the city, and, consequently, since his arrival there, he has it all his own way, while the mookhtars practise great extortions on litigants. It were well if some more pleaders were to come in from abroad.

The *Anjuman*—founded by Moonshee Gopal Dass, Extra Assistant Commissioner, notwithstanding that it consists of same able and wise men of the Punjab—does not promise well. The discussions carried on are passionate and prejudiced, and if no improvement in their tone is visible in future meetings, the society is sure to be abolished. The writer accounts for this by remarking that, not only are the natives of Peshawur haughty and ferocious, but the effect of the climate of the district is such that even the inhabitants of civilized cities on coming up there grow quarrelsome and contentious.

Mooltan.—In consequence of the prevalence of cholera in Lahore, quarantine has been established at Mooltan. The writer wonders that the quarantine should be for Native passengers only, and remarks that it is probably because in case of Europeans being detained, Government would have to provide proper boarding and lodging for them, unlike the poor Natives, who have to remain in a desert plain without food and shelter.

Hazara.—A terrible warfare is raging between Ajoon Khan, a native of Tingee in the Peshawur district, who, having slain the Tehseeldar of Charsudh, made his escape, and has since built a fort at the rebel frontier at a distance of three *kos* from his native place and the people of Prank Ghar, &c. On the 2nd August the latter besieged the fortress, and killed four men, and mortally wounded two others.

On the 3rd August six sowars of the Abazee Fort, twelve *kos* from Peshawur, made their escape, carrying six muskets and some other property belonging to Government with them. The sentinel of the fort, who was in the interest of the offenders, was one of the fugitives. The Commanding Officer deputed nine horsemen to make a search after the offenders, but no trace of them was found.

An unusually heavy fall of rain has taken place this year, which has destroyed numerous houses.

Hurripore.—Rains have been heavy and continuous, so much so that the sun was not visible for twenty-two days. In consequence of this much harm has been done, the season of sowing the *khurreef* harvest having been lost. Worse still, in some places, such as Pergunnahs Hurripore and Ban-sehra, where the harvest had been sown, it has been devoured by a peculiar kind of insect of the size of a locust; while large tracts of lands, in which sugar-cane and rice were grown, have been cut away by the encroachments of the river. Moreover, many of the inhabitants have become houseless, and some lives have been lost.

Another difficulty, to which the people of Pergunnah Hurripore are subjected whenever a heavy fall of rain takes place, there is that the *bunds* of the canals give away, in consequence of which water-mills cannot be kept at work, and flour becomes very scarce. But this result is, properly speaking, attributable to mismanagement on the part of the local authorities.

Meean Meer Cantonment.—Cholera is on the increase. From the 8th to the 14th August 32 cases occurred, of which 20 proved fatal. The authorities have taken all kinds of precautionary measures for preventing the spread of the disease. A particular place, with a Native doctor in charge, has been set apart for the reception and treatment of cholera patients, and a *doolie*, with four bearers, engaged in order to convey patients to the hospital as soon as they are attacked by the disease, while all communication between the cantonment and the city of Lahore has been stopped by posting guards at the sudder bazaar.

Jhelum.—Cholera is still very prevalent. Scarcely a day passes when 10 or 15 cases do not occur, out of which 5 or 10 are fatal.

A Khuttree cut off the nose and ears of his wife, who was a profligate character, and then made his escape. The woman is under treatment in the hospital.

Rawulpindee.—Swarms of locusts have been hovering all around, and do considerable damage to the crops.

For some days past a wolf frequents the sudder bazaar at night, and daily carries away a child. A reward of Rs. 5 has been offered to any one who kills the beast.

The frontier tribes, living on the opposite side of Attock, commit great oppression on the people of Huzroo in the Attock Tehseel. They carry away children, and on reaching beyond the limits of the British dominions, send a message to their guardians demanding a fixed sum of money as the price of their liberty. If the ransom is paid the captives are restored; but if not, they are made Musalmans, and carried away for sale. Even now a female captive is in the possession of the people, who demand Rs. 1,000 as her ransom. Besides this, a case of kidnapping happened only recently, in which two children were seized by six dacoits of the rebel frontier, and were being carried away; their guardians on becoming aware of this came up, and, after a fierce contest—in which one of the dacoits was wounded, and the rest fled—rescued the children.

The writer remarks that, if Government were to inflict severe punishments on the offenders on their being captured, as it did in case of the dacoit named Sumunda, a check would be put to the grievance.

Bad characters predominate in the city. The authorities are asked to look to them.

In the suits between the zemindars and mahajuns, the authorities show undue partiality to the former. The writer bitterly complains of this.

The *Majma-ul-Bahrain*, of the 18th August, noticing the erection of a dāk bungalow at Phillour, for the accommodation of European passengers, wonders why similar arrangements have not been made by Government for the comfort and convenience of Native passengers, seeing that in the estimation of

Government all of its subjects, of whatever colour or creed, are equal.

The *Kárnámah*, of the 19th August, notices the punishment inflicted by the Officiating Commissioner of Ajmere on a lad thirteen years old, who was convicted of having stripped three little girls of their ornaments and then thrown them into a well, by the abetment of a youth. The offender was sentenced to imprisonment for life and transportation to the Andaman Islands, and the abettor to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

The writer takes exception to the sentence, and remarks that as the law does not authorize a heavy punishment of this kind in case of young children, nor are there any precedents to justify it, the judgment passed by the Officiating Commissioner cannot be accounted for.

A correspondent of the *Pattiala Akhbár*, of the same date, repeats complaints of the disgraceful state of the streets and lanes of Benares. The streets abound with ruts and cavities in which dirty water remains collected, the absence of sewers at the sides of the streets to drain off their water being the cause. The lanes of Bengalee Tola, Agust Khund, and Ram-pura, are particularly in a very bad state. Heaps of dirt are also to be met with in numerous places, because sweepers obstinately refuse to remove them. It is only in cases where the people have agreed to pay them additional wages besides what they get from the municipality that they clear away the dirt once or twice in a week.

The municipal committee is asked to attend to the abuses.

Another correspondent of the same paper suspects that the employés attached to the Opium Factory at Ghazeepore are dishonest, and adduces the thefts which frequently take place there as a strong argument in proof. Besides *jemadars* and *dafadars*, as many as 60 peons are posted at the factory, so that, unless the men now on the establishment are supposed

to be dishonest, it is quite improbable that, in the face of such efficient arrangements for safety, cases of thefts should repeatedly happen there. The writer particularly alludes to the serious theft which occurred on the 9th August, and in which one maund and twenty-eight seers of opium were lost. Neither did a burglary take place, nor were any of the locks broken open, and all the men were on guard; the happening of a theft in these circumstances is at least suspicious.

The *Koh-i-Tûr*, of the 20th August, noticing the insolent behaviour of the European soldier at Rawulpindee, who threw a piece of tobacco at his superior, and was sentenced by Court-Martial to ten years' imprisonment as a punishment for the offence, regrets that, while for a petty insult towards a European superior, the soldier was punished with ten years' imprisonment, gravest offences committed by European soldiers towards Natives are passed over with indifference. The editor illustrates this fact by alluding to the case of the European soldier at Lahore, who last year caused the death of a Native lad by throwing him into the canal outside the Lahore Gate, and on the crime being proved against him, was only sentenced to six months' imprisonment. That so light a penalty should be inflicted for a murder, and a heavy punishment of ten years' imprisonment be imposed simply for the offence of throwing a piece of tobacco, is what the editor is at a loss to account for, unless it be that partiality for the Europeans prevails over justice. Worse still, if editors of newspapers ever dare to bring such incidents to light, they are ordered by Government to withdraw their statements.

The same paper publishes the communication of the Punjab Government to the editor's address, pointing out that the statement which appeared in that paper of the 28th May, as to a European soldier having thrown a Native lad into the canal outside the Lahore Gate (*vide* pp. 463-4, last para. of the foregoing number of the *Selections*), has, on enquiry, proved to be ungrounded, and directing the editor to withdraw it.

The editor states in reply that the statement was quite right, and vouches for its truth by giving a clue to the case. The boy thrown into the canal is stated to be the son of Bussa and the grandson of Afzul, of the Malik Rahgur caste, resident of *Kutra-i-Tarkashan*.

He goes on to confirm the truth of the statement still further by asserting that the incident took place at 3 P.M., and that he was an eye-witness of it; and concludes by censuring the police for having failed to insert the case in their diary, and misinformed the local authorities on the institution of an enquiry.

The *Mayo Gazette*, of the same date, is of opinion that the subscriptions raised in the several presidencies in order to perpetuate the memory of Lord Mayo, should be deposited in banks, and the proceeds spent in assisting one or two Natives from each presidency to go up to England every year to compete for the Civil Service Examination.

The same paper estimates the amount of damage caused by the recent heavy rains in Jullundhur at Rs. 1,00,000. Hundreds of houses were demolished, and much injury was done to the crops. The conduct of the Deputy Commissioner in having issued peremptory orders on pain of punishment for the repair of the houses in the midst of the calamity is severely censured.

The *Benares Akhbár*, of the 22nd August, devotes a leader to the abuses of Government jails. It is stated that the diet allowed to prisoners is generally imperfectly cooked, and less in weight than the sanctioned quantity. The budmashes and the rich among the prisoners, of course, get their full supply, but the poor, while they are made to work very hard, get too little to eat. The reason is that the persons appointed to cook bread privately sell it to prisoners, getting Re. 1-4-0 monthly for supplying four portions of bread in excess daily. Besides, the men entrusted with the management of the provisions also defraud.

Similarly, those of the prisoners who can afford to pay bribes get intoxicating drugs at all times, notwithstanding that their use is strictly prohibited in jails.

In its column of local news, the same paper again invites attention to the unfair practice of the pedlars and retailers at the gunjes and in other marts of the city (Benares) in underweight giving to their customers. Sellers of fuel are also guilty of a similar fraud. The editor regrets that no notice is taken by the authorities of the grievance.

Referring to the death of Munnee Lal, Serishtehdar of the Collector's Office, Benares, and the fact of his having left an infant son and much property without any guardian to look after it, the editor asks Government to take the management of the estate into its own hands without loss of time, so as to save it from falling into the possession of strangers.

The *Akhbár-i-Alam*, of the same date, wonders that, though it is laid down in the *Indian Penal Code* that any Government officer who decides a case unlawfully, knowing it to be such, or passes an improper order, will be punished with suspension, and if the case be a serious one, will be further liable to be called to account for it, and though it is now twelve years since the *Penal Code* has been in force, no effect has till now been given to the ruling, although there must have been numerous instances during this time in which officers have knowingly decided cases wrongly. Hundreds of appeals from the decisions of officers are yearly lodged in the higher tribunals, which are proofs of improper action on their part; but, unfortunately, such action is set down for an error in judgment, and, accordingly, the officers guilty of it are not called to account, while poor litigants are undone. The editor thinks that steps ought to be taken for reforming this serious abuse.

The *Oudh Akhbár*, of the 23rd August, in a leader discusses the leniency of the English law in the infliction of corporal punishment on offenders. The editor would advocate

the principle of limb for limb, life for life, as being lawful in the stern sense of justice, and accordingly sees no reason why a man who cuts off another's hand or nose should not be punished by the amputation of a similar limb or organ of his person.

By a similar train of reasoning, the editor would recommend that, besides the usual punishment of imprisonment, which is thought lightly of by them, thieves should also be subjected to a corporal chastisement, by being flogged daily while in jail, say, for a month, in order that they may take warning and refrain from the commission of a similar offence in future.

The same paper dwells on the evils resulting from the *shikast* and illegible form of writing fashionable in courts, and is of opinion that the example of the Bengal and the Punjab Governments might be followed, with advantage, by the other Governments and Administrations.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the same date, makes remarks on the same subject, and thinks that the Government of the North-Western Provinces should adopt measures for the introduction of good caligraphy in these provinces, equally with the Bengal and Punjab Governments.

The same paper notices the order of the Supreme Government prohibiting Government officials, on pain of dismissal from service, from using Government paper in their private correspondence. The editor approves of the order, but remarks that, until some special colour, mark, impression, or number is fixed, in order to distinguish Government from other paper, the evil which it is desired to remove will not be put a stop to.

The same paper learns from the *Delhi Gazette*, that covers containing coin or currency notes, cheques, money-orders, postage-stamps, or other valuable papers, are henceforth to have the name of the contents written on them for the informa-

tion of the postal employés, or else put down in the registered letter receipt.

The editor remarks that, though this precaution seems to have been taken in order to prevent the abstraction of the contents of letters, it is more likely to do harm than good; for while dishonest senders will find opportunities of enclosing plain paper in their letters, and setting down the contents to be currency notes, in order to throw the blame of theft on postal employés, the latter are sure to be tempted on knowing the contents to steal them. In order to avoid this twofold disadvantage, and at the same time to secure the object in view, the editor would suggest that all letters to be registered should be sent open to the post-office, and after an examination of their contents by the postal employés, should be closed in their presence by their bearers and then registered.

In its correspondence columns the same paper has the following :—

Roorkee.—In consequence of the prevalence of cholera in Saharanpore and Dehra Doon, quarantine has been established by order of the Cantonment Magistrate.

Saharanpore.—Cholera is frightfully on the increase. A large number of men have fallen victims to the disease, and there is yet no end to it. The sale of fruits and vegetables has been prohibited.

Goojranwalla.—Cholera is raging in the city, and three or four men daily die of it. The district authorities, together with the Civil Surgeon, pay great attention to the cleanliness of the city, and sale of noxious fruits and oil-sweetmeats has been prohibited.

Sirdhana (Meerut).—Fever is prevalent in the town, and cholera has also set in recently and caused some deaths. The correspondent attributes the prevalence of disease to the low position of the town. Both in and around it there are numerous pits and pools, which remain full of dirty water. The authorities are asked to attend to the cleanliness of the town.

Loodhiana.—A heavy fall of rain took place, which destroyed numbers of houses. A flight of locusts also made its appearance, which did considerable damage to the crops.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the same date, blames some of the editors of newspapers, both English and Urdu, for taking unwarrantable liberties by writing against Native chiefs and princes, or laying false charges against them, simply in order to satisfy private feelings of revenge, or because they happen not to subscribe for their papers. As examples, it is mentioned that some of the editors lately took advantage of a mere casual circumstance to cause doubts to arise as to the loyalty of the Maharaja of Jheend; that one of them threatened the Maharaja of Baroda with deposition, and so on.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* thinks such conduct on the parts of its contemporaries highly blamable, and advises them to refrain from the habit, and to aim rather at giving good advice to those of the Native chiefs and princes in whom they may find any faults, than at using scurrilous language towards them or picking holes.

The same paper has a communicated article in which the attention of the municipalities of the North-Western Provinces is invited to the need of erecting urinals of a convenient and peculiar plan, similar to those built in the French and English towns, at every market-place and other public resorts of all populous municipal towns, such as Meerut, Agra, Allahabad, Benares, Ghazeepore, &c. In the absence of such urinals, not only are the people put to great inconvenience, but they are often seized by the police and brought to punishment and disgrace for infringing the municipal bye-laws, for committing nuisance in public in places, although the action is quite involuntary.

A correspondent of the *Lauh-i-Mahfúz*, of the same date, writing from Jhansie, draws attention to the trouble and inconvenience suffered by the people, especially in the rainy

season, in consequences of the roads of the district being *kutchas*, and points out the need of metalling them.

In its columns of local news, the same paper notices the case of an unlawfully-begotten babe, who was lately murdered by strangulation and thrown into a nullah in the vicinity of the city (Moradabad). On an inquiry being made, it appeared from the statement of a sweeper woman that the babe was the issue of a Khuttree's daughter; but afterwards, on being bribed by the guardians of the latter, she deposed that the babe had died after birth and was being carried by her to be buried, when on account of rain, and the muddiness of the road, her foot gave way, and the corpse fell into the nullah. This deposition was received as satisfactory, and the case was dismissed.

The editor calls in question the veracity of the statement, and remarks that, as it is not customary among any nation to have dead children buried by the agency of sweepers, unless they be unlawfully-begotten, and be privately murdered as such, the authorities ought not to have received the statement as satisfactory, but to have made full enquiries into the matter.

He goes on to say that he is in possession of full information connected with the birth of the babe, and to suggest that, as cases of this kind of infanticide are common enough in all cities, and are the result of the prohibition of widow marriage, it were well, in order to put a stop to the crime, if in each city and town a special house were set apart by Government, as is the case in European cities, where all bastard children may be privately conveyed by the women who give birth to them, and are supported at the public expense.

The *Mukhbir-i-Sádiq*, of the same date, learns from a correspondent at Meerut that a flight of locusts recently made its appearance there, which did considerable damage to the crops, and completely divested the trees of their foliage.

Another correspondent of the same paper, writing from Azeemabad (Patna), states that two cases of burglary were committed in the course of a week at the house of a woman in Koocha-i-Hammam, situated in Mohulla Divan, in one of which Rs. 200 worth of property was stolen; while in the other, ornaments and other valuables amounting to Rs. 5,000 were carried away. In order to avoid the trouble and expense consequent on the court procedure, however, the woman both times stated in her deposition that no loss had occurred.

The *Nur-ul-Anwâr*, of the 24th August, reports that a serious case of theft took place in Bilsee—a town situated near Saheswan (Budaon)—in which property valued at Rs. 15,000 was stolen. The Budaon police are busy making enquiries.

The *Panjābī Akhbār*, of the same date, states, on the authority of a correspondent, that in Mouzah Kukralee (Gujrat), a child was murdered by a bad character for the sake of his ornaments. The lad was the only child of his parents, and at the time he was murdered all the preparations for his marriage had been made. The parents in their grief buried all the clothes, &c., prepared for the wedding, with the corpse of the deceased.

The same paper states that the *khalisa* villages, and the lands in Daoodzaee in the Peshawur district, have suffered much from the recent heavy rain. A large part of the crops has been destroyed, and the cultivated lands have been so much ruined by the floods that several thousand rupees will have to be spent before they will be peopled again. Flights of locusts also remained hovering about for four or five days, and injured the crops in some places.

The same paper notices the distress brought on the city of Jullundhur by the late rains (*vide* page 465, para. 2, of the *Selections* for the foregoing week). About 500 houses were demolished, the loss amounting to thousands of rupees. Kot Kishan Chund, an extensive mohulla, situated at a short

distance towards the east of the city, suffered most from the calamity. The exertions of Lala Jumna Das—a gentleman of the city, and a member of the municipal committee—in assisting the suffering inhabitants in the nick of the distress were commendable. He caused a raft to be prepared at his own expense, by means of which the people of the Kot were enabled to cross the surrounding flood and reach towards the city in safety.

In conclusion, it is remarked that as the loss suffered by the city was owing to the Railway authorities having impeded the course of the water of the river, situated towards the north of Mouzah Gungrawallah, at a distance of ten *kos* from the city, by having built a bridge at a place where the flood of the river used to flow, they ought to be called upon to relieve the sufferers by pecuniary aid, and should also be required to pull down the bridge in order to avoid the recurrence of a similar catastrophe in future.

The same paper learns from a correspondent that recently such a heavy rain took place at Loodhiana that a large number of the inhabitants have become houseless. The number of demolished houses, as it is at present known, is 500. To add to the distress of the inhabitants, fever and cholera are also prevalent in the city, so much so that some ten or or fifteen persons daily die.

The *Koh-i-Nūr*, of the same date, under the heading "Keekree" (Ajmere), states, on the authority of a correspondent, that at 10 o'clock on the night of the 6th August, a caravan, which came from Tonk with several camels laden with opium, was plundered near the wall of the city by a gang of twenty dacoits, who carried away four maunds of opium, and inflicted severe wounds on one of the caravan. The police are making a search after the robbers, but no trace of them has yet been found.

The writer wonders that, notwithstanding that there was a police station in the city, and the Magistrate was also

present, and the caravan was put up very near the city gate and in the close vicinity of the dâk bungalow, in which a European gentleman was lodged on the night of the incident, such a daring robbery should have happened, and no notice should have been taken of it at the time.

Another correspondent, of the same paper, writing from Sirsa (Punjab), invites attention to the bad practice common among the *mahajuns* of most cities of making a previous bargain for the purchase of hundreds of thousands of rupees worth of commodities, stipulating to recover profit or pay up loss according to the market-price of the commodities on a fixed date. In Sirsa such betting is very common, and in one instance, which took place recently, caused loss of life; the particulars being these :—A *bunneah*, named Poorun, stipulated for the purchase of a certain article at a high price on the anticipation that no rain would fall; but finding that it did rain, and that, consequently, he would have to suffer loss in the bargain, he terminated his life by drowning himself in a tank.

As the practice is a fruitful source of mischief, the writer thinks that Government ought to take steps for checking it by treating it under the Gambling Act.

The same paper states that in the sandy tracts belonging to Kупpoorthulla, the trees of the orchards are covered all over with swarms of the young of locusts, and anticipates very bad results for the crops.

The same paper reports a serious case of theft at the house of a Nanharya in Gullee Sobba Ram in Umritsur, in which Rs. 4,000 worth of property was stolen, without a burglary being committed. The police are busy in making enquiries, but no trace of the theft has yet been discovered. A Teli woman, who used to frequent the house, was arrested on suspicion, and placed in a room under the custody of a police

constable in order to extort a confession. The threats employed by the police made such an impression on her that she believed that, if the theft were not traced, they would kill her son, a child two years old. Under this apprehension, she wrapped up the child in a cloth and threw him into the tank at the Durbar Sahib, and then made her escape. She was seized in a village and brought back. According to her statement, the child had been left alive by her in the custody of the police.

The writer regrets that the police enquiries into a case of theft should have brought about the death of an innocent child.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Kárnámah*, of the 19th August, learns from a correspondent at Dholepore, that in consequence of a misunderstanding having risen among the members of the royal council, they have left off attending the council and discharging their public functions. Owing to this, the officials of the court have no work to do, and suitors are involved in great embarrassment—about 200 cases being undecided. The writer regrets that the Dewan of the State through courtesy does not interfere in the working of the council, on account of which the courtiers take unwarrantable liberties.

The management of the other departments, such as revenue, criminal, &c., is well conducted, and is creditable to the officers entrusted with it. The recommendation system, however, prevails in all departments. Both plaintiffs and defendants, in all suits, bring the recommendation of the courtiers, though the Maharajah does not mind them where improper.

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari*, of the same date, learns from a correspondent at Baroda, that the Gaekwar's thoughts are too much taken up with filling his coffers, and that accordingly

he is forcibly collecting money from his subjects in all possible ways.

The Maharajah has at last sanctioned the setting up of a newspaper-press in his State. The newspaper will be Anglo-Gujratee, and will be conducted by Mr. Lewis (salary Rs. 500 per mensem), lately on the staff of the *Delhi Gazette* Press, aided by an assistant on Rs. 50 a month. The object of the paper will be to refute and contradict all news and statements that may appear in any newspaper to the discredit of the Gaekwar's Government.

The *Pattiala Akhbār*, of the same date, states that, in consequence of the recent heavy rain, thousands of houses were destroyed in Nabha. The Raja is praised for his exertions in assisting the people in the midst of the distress. He was seen mounted on an elephant, personally superintending the arrangements made for the outlet of water from the houses of the people.

Credit is also given to the Raja for having made an addition to the salaries of those of his officers, who, in his opinion, deserved such increase, as well as for having appointed a Naib Nazim in each Nizamut—just in the same way as two Naib Nazims were appointed in each of the Nizamuts in Puttiala last year.

The *Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Panjāb*, of the 23rd August, learns from the *Umdat-ul-Akhbar* that the Begum of Bhopal intends shortly to start on a pilgrimage to Mecca, and that a large number of her subjects will accompany her. By the way, the Begum is praised for showing special indulgences every year to those of her people who go on a pilgrimage to the holy city. Liberal sums of money are bestowed on them to meet the expenses of the journey, while those of them who are public servants receive a year's pay in advance.

A correspondent of the *Lauh-i-Mahfūz*, of the same date, writing from Rampore, states that a spacious house is in course

of erection there, and that pressed labourers are procured to work at it. At each thanah men are being constantly pressed into service, and sent to the place where they are forced to work *nolens volens*, and are either very insufficiently paid, or not paid at all.

The *Panjábi Akhbár*, of the 24th August, gives credit to the Maharaja of Cashmere for having issued orders to his officers to allow his subjects gratis fodder for cattle, and wood for burining.

The same paper states that a magnificent palace is being built near the city of Bhawulpore for the residence of the Nawab. Marble, and a great variety of coloured stones, have been sent for from Delhi, Lucknow, and other places, and the building, when ready, will be a wonderful specimen of architecture.

The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the building was celebrated on the 10th August, when a grand assembly was convened, at which the grandees of the State, and a large number of European gentlemen, were present.

A Hyderabad correspondent of the same paper states that, in consequence of the *Madrassa-i-Dár-ul-Ulúm* in that State not having made a satisfactory progress, the Prime Minister has appointed a European as Principal of the school. Since taking charge of the institution, this gentleman has dismissed several of the teachers, and it seems to be his intention entirely to exclude Arabic and Persian from the course of study. The correspondent objects to this policy, and thinks that every encouragement should be given to the study of those languages, and that the Prime Minister should appoint a Professor of Arabic in the school.

The correspondent also states that Inayat Husein Khan, Assistant Kotwal, is trying to reduce the allowances of the stipend-holders, which has highly disgusted the latter. The writer deprecates the measure, and comments on the bad con-

sequences which are sure to follow from it, stating, among other things, that a reduction in the pay of servants necessarily leads them to become dishonest and disloyal.

The *Koh-i-Nûr*, of the same date, states that cholera is raging to a frightful extent at Srinuggur. From the 27th July to 17th August (*i.e.*, the 8th to the 29th of *Shravan*) 1,991 cases occurred—*viz.*, 1,495 in the city, and 496 in the environs—of which 419 in the city, and 158 in the environs—in all 577—proved fatal. These consisted of 345 males and 232 females, of whom 80 were Hindoos and 497 Musalmans. On the 18th August 175 cases occurred in and around the city, of which 78 proved fatal; and on the 19th 217, of which 85 were fatal.

The Maharajah is praised for doing all in his power to afford relief and assistance to his subjects in the calamity, as well as for his exertions in banishing the disease from his realm. English doctors and Native physicians have been appointed to act under the superintendence of Doctor Gopal Chandra, and a store of medicines has been provided at the public expense, and placed at the disposal of each. Orders have also been issued to Baboo Nilamber, to the effect that as Cashmere is an extensive territory, 100 dispensaries should be established in it, with a *tehveeldar* in each for keeping charge of medicines; that all these dispensaries should be placed under the control of a sudder dispensary, to which they should submit their reports, and whence they should be supplied with medicines; that in case of the medicines already supplied from Jummoo proving short of the demand, orders for fresh stores should at once be sent; and that *hukeems* and doctors should be despatched with medicines to pergunnahs where the disease may be prevalent.

Besides these measures, prayers are offered up in temples and mosques, and a sum of Rs. 12,000 has been sanctioned for persons employed for the duty. The sale of vegetables and green fruits has been prohibited, and, in order that green-

grocers and owners of gardens may not suffer from such prohibition, orders have been issued for paying Rs. 6,000 to the former as an indemnity for their loss, and for the remission of Rs. 1,500 in the tax levied from the latter.

The writer goes on to say that what has been published in the *Indian Public Opinion* as to cholera not being of a virulent type in Cashmere, but having been simply reported to be such, in order that the Maharajah may be prevented from returning to his capital soon, is groundless, inasmuch as the people as well as the officials of Cashmere, so far from wishing the Maharajah to remain away from the capital, value his presence above everything else, and are always fond of seeing him. His presence at Cashmere is beneficial to the people in a great variety of ways. The statement in the *Indian Public Opinion* seems, therefore, to be a hoax, started by some European gentleman like the dramatic performer, who last year visited Cashmere, but not finding the Maharajah at his capital, petitioned him to pay the expenses of the journey, which the Maharajah generously did.

In consequence of a heavy rain, the buttress of the *Moonshee Bagh* in Srinuggur gave way on the 12th August. Such heavy rain is said not to have fallen in Cashmere for years. In 1865 a rainstorm of this kind happened, by which the lower houses of the city were destroyed, and much loss had ensued.

COMMERCIAL.

The *Koh-i-Nur*, of the 17th August, invites attention to the trouble suffered by railway passengers in consequence of the times at which the trains start from the Delhi and Lahore stations being highly inconvenient to them. The only up-train from Delhi starts at 2-45 A.M., and leaves Ghazeeabad for Meerut at 7-35 A.M., so that, while passengers have to suffer the trouble of beginning their journey from Delhi in

the latter part of the night, they have to wait at Ghazeeabad four or five hours for the Meerut train.

The times of the Lahore and Umritsur trains are equally inconvenient. The mail-train starts from Lahore at 2-45 A. M., at which time passengers find it very troublesome to reach the station, and have to encounter various kinds of impediments on the road; while the passenger-train, which starts at 12 A. M., reaches the Phillour Pass at 8 P.M., so that passengers have to stay a whole night, and can only cross the Pass next morning. In short, none of the down-trains from Lahore start at such a time as would save passengers trouble either at the place from which they originally start, or on their arrival at Phillour. Worse still, the arrangements for the comfort of the passengers at night at Phillour are shamefully neglected. The inconvenience to which the passengers of the third-class are subjected, especially in the rainy season, is very great. They are not allowed by the railway officials to put up at the station, nor is there any *serai* in the city to accommodate them. Besides this, no arrangements have been made for the supply of articles of food, conveyance for travelling the distance between Phillour and Loodhiana, and for crossing the river.

The editor points out to the railway authorities the need of attending to the above defects, as well for the sake of the public good, as for their own gain and good reputation; and, at the same time, asks Government to issue injunctions to the authorities of the district to which Phillour belongs to look more to the comfort of passengers.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Majm-ul-Bahrain*, of the 18th August, has a long communicated article on the *Madrasa-i-Imani* of Lucknow. After noticing briefly the history of the foundation of the school—how it was started in the Farangi Mahall by the efforts of the Syuds of Jerol, who managed to assign Rs. 7 a month

for its support—how Nawab Ghaznafar-ood-Dowla fitted it with carpeting—how Moulvie Meer Ghulam Husain of Kintour undertook to teach the school for a few hours daily, without any remuneration—and how the nobility and gentry of Lucknow came forward with subscriptions in aid of the institution, and so on,—the writer proceeds to remark that, unless some permanent endowments are made for the maintenance of the school, there can be no hope of its durability. Accordingly, he suggests that out of the monthly endowments of Rs. 14,400, and Rs. 4,000 belonging to Husainabad and the *Shah Najaf*, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 300 respectively should be set apart for the *Madrassa-i-Imani*, which could easily be done by curtailing certain items of expenditure. Out of these grants, plus the subscriptions which have already been and may hereafter be raised, Rs. 200 monthly should be devoted to the maintenance of the school, and the rest deposited in the Bank of Bengal, and after it has accumulated to a handsome amount, should be laid out in the purchase of Government Promissory Notes. The same practice should be repeated after stated intervals. By this plan, the institution will, in time, have a rich endowment of its own, and will become self-supporting, and its permanence will be ensured.

The writer would also point out the need (1) of fixing courses of study for the school, which should also include exercises in Arabic composition and essay-writing, and (2) the length of time which a student should study at the school, and beyond which no one should be allowed to stay there, and (3) the necessity of keeping registers of attendance, and (4) of instituting annual examinations and publishing results by means of the local newspapers, or, which would be the better plan, in a vernacular newspaper to be started in connection with the school under the patronage of the supporters of the institution.

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari*, of the 19th August, has an article headed "A Tax on Education." The object is to show that the system pursued in the North-Western Provinces and the

Punjab, with regard to the sale of the vernacular books taught in Government schools, is open to a grave objection. In both presidencies shops for the sale of the books have been opened by Government, where books are sold exceedingly dear, so much so, that for a book which can be got in the bazaar for three annas, six and even nine annas have to be paid. This is felt extremely hard by the students, who are bound to purchase books exclusively from the Government shops, and leads the pupils of the rudimentary or hulqabundee schools, in which no tuition-fees are taken, to think that Government collects a tuition-fee from them in that shape.

The writer thinks it a great pity that Government should sell books at high prices, and impresses on it the desirability of reducing the prices with a view to promote the spread of learning. In connection with this, he would also invite attention to the trouble suffered by the pupils of hulqabundee schools in procuring school-books, in consequence of the transit of books by mofussil dák not being permitted. That villagers should have to pay a dák cess, and should yet be unable to get books for their children by the agency of the dák, is what the writer considers extremely unjust. The poor men must either undertake a journey of several *kos* in order to get books, or must do without them. Such circumstances as these are great impediments in the way of education, and the writer thinks Government ought to attend to them. (For a similar complaint see extract from the *Punjábí Akhbár* at pages 454-5 of the *Selections* for the week ending 17th August.)

The *Mayo Gazette*, of the 20th August, notices with pleasure the establishment, under the auspices of a few Native gentlemen of the city, of a public library at Benares by means of subscriptions. The library at present contains books in English, and in the different Oriental languages, to the number of about 600, while more are being collected. Some thirty newspapers, both English and Vernacular, are also subscribed for. It is open for the reception of all persons

who have a free access to all the books and newspapers without being required to pay any fee.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Naf-ul-Az'm*, of the 20th August, has been informed that a Bengalee lady has composed a Memoir of Lord Mayo, including an account of his death.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been received up to 31st August, 1872 :—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
1	Urdú Akhbár,	Urdu,	Delhi,	Weekly,	1872. August, 16th	1872. August, 20th
2	Najm-ul-Akhhár,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 16th	" 26th
3	Dhaultpore Gazette,	Ditto,	Dhaultpore,	Ditto,	" 16th	" 27th
4	Núr-ul-Anwár	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 17th	" 19th
5	Koh-i-Núr,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 17th	" 20th
6	Panjábí Akhbár,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 17th	" 20th
7	Majma-ul-Bahrain,	Ditto,	Loodhiana,	Ditto,	" 18th	" 24th
8	Gwalior Gazette,	Urdu-Hindi,	Gwalior,	Ditto,	" 18th	" 30th
9	Kárnámah,	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Ditto,	" 19th	" 22nd
10	Dabdaba-i-Sikandarí,	Ditto,	Rampore,	Ditto,	" 19th	" 23rd
11	Pattiala Akhbár,	Ditto,	Pattiala,	Ditto,	" 19th	" 24th
12	Sádiq-ul-Akhhár,	Ditto,	Bhawulpore,	Ditto,	" 19th	" 26th
13	Hindí Márwár Gazete,	Hindi,	Jodhpore,	Ditto,	" 19th	" 28th
14	Urdu ditto,	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 19th	" 28th
15	Oudh Akhbár,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 20th	" 22nd
16	Shola-i-Túr,	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Weekly,	" 20th	" 23rd
17	Mayo Gazette,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Tri-monthly,	" 20th	" 26th
18	Nasim-i-Jaunpore,	Ditto,	Jounpore,	Weekly,	" 20th	" 26th
19	Naf-ul-Azím,	Arabic,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 20th	" 26th
20	Koh-i-Túr,...	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 20th	" 29th
21	Rohilkhund Akhbár,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly,	" 21st	" 26th
22	Benares Akhbár,	Hindi,	Benares,	Weekly,	" 22nd	" 23rd
23	Roznámcha,...	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Daily,	" 22nd	" 26th
24	Akhhár-i-Alam,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly,	" 22nd	" 27th
25	Vidyá Vilás,	Urdu-Dogrit,	Jummoo,	Ditto,	" 22nd	" 29th
26	Oudh Akhbár,	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 23rd	" 24th
27	Lawrence Gazette,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly,	" 23rd	" 26th

28	Allygurh Institute Gazette,	...	Urdu-English,	Allygurh,	...	Ditto,	...	23rd	"	26th
29	Roznámcha,	...	Urdu,	Lucknow,	...	Daily,	...	23rd	"	26th
30	Sháms-ul-Akhhár,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	...	Bi-monthly,	...	23rd	"	26th
31	Mukhbír-i-Sádiq,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	...	Weekly,	...	23rd	"	26th
32	Akhhár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb,	...	Ditto,	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	23rd	"	27th
33	Lauh-i-Mahfúz,	...	Ditto,	Moradabad,	...	Ditto,	...	23rd	"	28th
34	Pá-i-ká-Akhhár,	...	Ditto,	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	23rd	"	30th
35	Rajpūtána Social Science Congress Gazette.	...	Ditto,	Jeypore,	...	Ditto,	...	23rd	"	30th
36	Roznámcha,	...	Ditto,	Lucknow,	...	Daily,	...	24th	"	26th
37	Akhhár-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	...	Weekly,	...	24th	"	26th
38	Núr-ul-Anwár,	...	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	26th
39	Urdu Delhi Gazette,	...	Ditto,	Agra,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	26th
40	Meerut Gazette,	...	Ditto,	Meerut,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	27th
41	Rohilkhand Akhhár,	...	Ditto,	Moradabad,	...	Bi-weekly,	...	24th	"	27th
42	Kkair Khwáh-i-Panjáb,	...	Ditto,	Gujranwalla,	...	Weekly,	...	24th	"	27th
43	Koh-i-Núr,...	...	Ditto,	Lahore,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	27th
44	Punjábí Akhhár,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	28th
45	Urdú Akhhár,	...	Ditto,	Delhi,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	29th
46	Daulpore Gazette,	...	Ditto,	Dhaulpore,	...	Ditto,	...	24th	"	30th
47	Akmal-ul-Akhhár,	...	Ditto,	Delhi,	...	Ditto,	...	25th	"	29th
48	Majma-ul-Bahrain,	...	Ditto,	Loodhiana,	...	Ditto,	...	25th	"	30th
49	Kárnámah,	...	Ditto,	Lucknow,	...	Ditto,	...	26th	"	30th
50	Roznámcha,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	...	Daily,	...	26th	"	30th
51	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	Ditto,	...	Ditto,	...	27th	"	30th
52	Matla-i-Núr,	...	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	...	Weekly,	...	27th	"	31st
53	Roznámcha,	...	Ditto,	Lucknow,	...	Daily,	...	28th	"	30th
54	Akhhár-i-Am,	...	Ditto,	Lahore,	...	Weekly,	...	28th	"	31st
55	Supplement to Lawrence Gazette,	...	Ditto,	Meerut,	...	Ditto,	...	4th week.	"	26th
56	Benares Akhhár,	...	Hindi,	Benares,	...	Ditto,	...	29th	"	31st

ALLAHABAD: }
The 21st September, 1872.

SOHAN LAL,
Offg. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

